

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 00449 181309Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0449

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: USIRJC

SUBJ: US-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION MANPOWER ACTIVITIES:
SEPTEMBER AGREEMENT

REF: TEHRAN 00389

1. REFTEL DESCRIBES STATUS OF EACH PROJECT UNDER PLAN OF OPERATIONS FOR MANPOWER AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE OF US-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION. AT MEETING WITH IRANIAN CO-CHAIRMAN NASSERI ON JANUARY 13, LATTER STATED THAT ACTIVITY 9,3 (MOBILE VOCATIONAL TRAINING UNIT UTILIZATION), INCLUDING FIGURE OF \$52,500 FOR WARZECHA AND RELATED SERVICES, APPROVED AND REQUESTED WARZECHA ARRIVAL IRAN SOONEST. ALTHOUGH RIAL FUNDS NOT YET DEPOSITED WITH EMBASSY, BUDGETARY PAPERWORK INITIATED IN MINISTRY OF LABOR. REQUEST RE-CONFIRMATION OF WARZECHA AVAILABILITY AND ADVISEMENT OF EARLIEST DATE OF ARRIVAL. WILL ADVISE AS SOON AS FUNDS DEPOSITED WITH EMBASSY.

2. NASSERI INFORMED US THAT CONTRACT RECENTLY SIGNED BETWEEN IRANIAN INDUSTRIAL AND RENOVATION ORGANIZATION (IDRO) AND U.S.-BASED ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL COMPANY FOR SALE OF EIGHTEEN MOBILE VOCATIONAL TRAINING UNITS. THIS CONTRACT WORTH ABOUT \$1.8 MILLION. (ALTHOUGH THESE WERE MINISTRY OF LABOR FUNDS, SEMI-AUTONOMOUS IDRO SIGNED FOR GOI TO GET AROUND BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES INVOLVED IN GOVERNMENT TO PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRACTS). NASSERI HOPES THAT ADDITIONAL EIGHTEEN TO TWENTY MOBILE TRAINING CENTERS WILL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 00449 181309Z

BE PURCHASED FROM U.S. SOURCES IN 1355 (MAR 21 1976 - MAR

20 1977) AND RATHER CONSIDERABLY STATED THAT WARZECHA'S ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING REQUESTS FOR PROCUREMENT (RFP'S) COULD ONLY HELP THIS PROCESS.

3. IN COLLATERAL DISCUSSION ON WARZECHA PROJECT, NASSERI SAID IRAN HAS PROCURED TO DATE NINE FRENCH AND CZECH MOBILE TRAINING CENTERS, AND HAS TEN MORE ON ORDER. HE SAID DECISIONS TO BUY THIS EQUIPMENT INFLUENCED BY NONECONOMIC FACTORS SUCH AS NECESSITY FOR QUICK IMPORT OF HIGHLY VISIBLE GEAR FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND CRITICIZED HIGH COST OF FRENCH UNITS (50-60 PERCENT HIGHER THAN ATLANTIC'S MODEL AND INFERIOR IN SIZE AND EQUIPMENT). CZECH UNITS ARE MORE LIKE ROLLING REPAIR STATIONS.

4. RE FIXED TRAINING CENTERS, U.S. ROLE IN THIS PROJECT APPEARS TO BE RECEDING INTO HORIZON WITH DELAY IN FIRST POSSIBLE ARRIVAL OF EXPERT TO IRANIAN YEAR 1356 OR 1357. RUSSIANS HAVE APPARENTLY SOLD TEN SUCH CENTERS TO IRAN, FOR APPROXIMATELY \$1 MILLION EACH (VERSUS OUR ESTIMATE OF \$10 MILLION PER CENTER). CONSTRUCTION ON OTHER TRAINING CENTERS HAS SLOWED OR HALTED DUE TO BUDGETARY STRINGENCIES. HALTS IN CONSTRUCTION ACTUALLY MADE THE \$1.8 MILLION AVAILABLE

FOR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FROM ATLANTIC. (SEE ABOVE). NASSERI SAID THAT NUMBER OF MOBILE EMPLOYMENT CENTERS HAVE BEEN CONTRACTED FOR WITH GENERAL MOTORS. DMBASSY HAS NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS DEAL, WHICH IS RELATIVELY SMALL TRANSACTION INVOLVING ABOUT \$300,000 WORTH OF VEHICLES AND ALSO HANDLED THROUGH IDRO.

5. IN ANOTHER ASIDE RE IDRO ROLE, NASSERI SAID IRAN EVENTUALLY HOPES MANUFACTURE OWN VOCATIONAL TRAINING EQUIPMENT AND MOBILE UNITS AND ONE ASPECT OF WARZECHA MISSION WOULD INVOLVE WRITING SPECIFICATIONS FOR MOBILE UNITS CAPABLE OF FUTURE IRANIAN MANUFACTURE.

6. FUTURE MERSON ROLE. NASSERI HOPES MERSON WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE BY USDL FOR TWO VISITS IN NEXT IRANIAN YEAR (SEE REFTEL). WHETHER WITH TITLE OF USIRJC MANPOWER PROGRAM CONSULTANT OR IN SOME OTHER CAPACITY, NASSERI SEES MERSON AS PLAYING KEY ROLE IN COORDINATING ONGOING AND FUTURE ACTIVITY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 00449 181309Z

AND, IN HIS WORDS, "KEEPING PLATE WARM" FOR EXPANDED ACTIVITY ONCE BUDGETARY PROBLEMS EASED. NASSERI OFFERED THREE OPTIONS FOR USDL CONSIDERATION:

(1) GOI-MERSON CONTRACT (2) SAME ARRANGEMENT AS COVERED PREVIOUS 1354 MERSON VISITS TO IRAN, I.E. USDL REIMBURSED LUMP FOR TRAVEL, PER DIEM, AND SALARY OR (3) GOI PAYS DIRECTLY COST OF TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE TO MERSON AND SEPARATE SUM FOR SALARY GIVEN USDL FOR PAYMENT TO MERSON.

UNDER LATTER TWO OPTIONS, MERSON REMAINS USDL EXPERT/CONSULTANT ON LOAN TO GOI. REQUEST USDL VIEWS ON MOST PREFERABLE FORMULA.

7. ALTHOUGH GOI, WITH CURRENT BUDGET PROBLEMS, PREFERS TO LET SLIP SOME PROJECTS AND ALTHOUGH FIRST OPTIMISTIC PROJECTIONS OF POTENTIAL SALES MARKET FOR U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR MUST NOW OBVIOUSLY BE REVISED, EMBASSY SEES WARZECHA AND MERSON TDY PRESENCE IN IRAN AS ONE WAY OF SYMBOLIZING U.S. INTEREST IN COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO IRANIAN MANPOWER PROBLEMS AND, TO QUOTE NASSERI, "KEEPING THE PLATE WOARM". SINCE GOI WILL PAY ALL DIRECT COSTS FOR EXPERTISE PLUS SUPPORTIVE COST ELEMENT FOR WARZECHA PROJECT, MINIMAL COST INVOLVED TO USG WHILE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES OF USIRJC COOPERATION ARE ADVANCED.
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